

**BUTTE-SILVER BOW LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
STUDY COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Meeting  
December 1, 2005  
Butte-Silver Bow Courthouse, First Floor Conference Room**

***Meeting Date:*** December 1, 2005

***Time:*** 5:30 p.m.

***Place:*** Butte-Silver Bow Courthouse, First Floor Conference Room

***Call to Order:*** Chairman Bob Worley brought the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. and called roll with the following results:

***Members Present:*** Ristene Hall, Tony Bonney, Wayne Harper, Shag Miller, Dave Palmer, Meg Sharp, Northey Tretheway, Cindi Shaw and Bob Worley

***Excused Absences:*** Ron Rowling

***Approval of Minutes:*** Dave Palmer motioned for the approval of minutes and Northey Tretheway seconded. The minutes from November 17, 2005 were approved with corrections.

***Comments from Ron Rowling:*** None.

Northey mentioned that he had spoke with Danette Gleason and that she had told him it would not make sense to put the Auditor in the Finance and Budget Department. She suggested that the Auditor operate independently from the courthouse and be operable under the Council to keep segregation.

Bob Worley mentioned that he had spoke with Danette Gleason to clarify a comment Shag Miller had made from the last meeting. Bob Worley had reviewed the minutes from last week in regard to comments made from Bob McCarthy and the Auditor's position.

Shag Miller asked if Bob Worley was referring to the present Auditor as an internal Auditor? Bob Worley replied that the present Auditor is elected by BSB. Shag Miller responded even though she has limited duties because most of the duties were taken over by the Finance and Budget Department.

Northey Tretheway responded that he did not believe the audit had been taken over by the Finance and Budget Department. Shag Miller replied that some of the duties had according to Jeff Amerman and Danette Gleason. Northey replied that he believed the auditing was being done by an external auditor and as far as internal auditing he did not know if there really was any according to Bob McCarthy's comment that the Finance and Budget Department cannot audit themselves.

Bob Worley replied that they would probably need to clarify duties. Bob Worley did not think there were any auditing duties that were taken over by the Finance and Budget Department. Bob Worley commented that the Finance and Budget Department could not audit themselves.

Shag Miller replied that he understands that but asked what happened to the duties of the Auditor when Jack Lynch took it away from her?

Bob Worley replied that it was his understanding that Jack Lynch did not take it away from her. It was done prior to Jack Lynch.

Northey Tretheway brought up Missoula and their Auditor being a CPA.

Bob Worley mentioned that they should all have copies of the charters from Great Falls, Helena and Missoula. Bob Worley commented that it was suggested by Bob McCarthy that they might want to look at simplifying the BSB charter and have more things done by ordinance. Northey Tretheway volunteered to go through the charters, select one as a model and start a draft of a simplified version of Butte-Silver Bow's Charter. Northey selected Missoula's charter.

Bob Worley commented that Bob McCarthy would probably not be at tonight's meeting. Bob Worley discussed that they will give the public an option of selecting for use in BSB a simplified charter. If they chose to keep the existing charter, it would be asked that they look at the corrections made by the Study Commission. Bob Worley commented that Bob McCarthy felt Butte-Silver Bow's charter had outlived its usefulness as it existed. It was originally written to combine governments of BSB. Bob McCarthy feels it is too cumbersome.

Northey Tretheway commented that the charter is difficult to interpret because it is so complex and it should read more, in a broad sense, of what the general structure form of government should be. Language that is not in the charter could be done through ordinance. The charter should allow flexibility.

Cindi Shaw asked if there were duplications in the charter that were already in ordinance?

Northey Tretheway replied that according to Bob McCarthy there is a lot in the charter that should be done by ordinance. Bob McCarthy suggested if there are items not done by ordinance currently, they could be put in the charter.

Bob Worley commented that he would like Northey Tretheway to continue to go through and find language that could be deleted from the charter and done by way of ordinance.

Northey Tretheway replied that he will do a rough draft but it is key to keep Bob McCarthy involved.

Cindi Shaw asked how are they going to market it to the public when most people have not read the charter?

Bob Worley suggested that they have Northey do a rough draft of the simplified charter and then proceed with reviewing the existing charter.

Bob Worley started with Article V and thought it would be one of the harder parts to get through. Bob Worley mentioned Bob McCarthy's suggestion about people who work in certain departments work for the Chief Executive rather than the department head.

Bob Worley started with the review of the Executive Branch in Section V.

Northey Tretheway asked which ones are mandated by the state? Dave Palmer was not sure but thought that they would all be mandated by state.

Bob Worley visited with Dick Tamblyn and he felt that the Auditor did not have enough qualifications...pull the Auditor from the executive officers and put qualifications on the Auditor.

Wayne Harper commented that he was not sure if you had to have an Auditor or an Assessor.

Bob Worley mentioned in Missoula the Treasurer and the Clerk and Recorder are in one Department.

Wayne Harper suggested that they should look into the law and see which ones are mandated and which ones are not.

Tony Bonney asked if there are two Superintendent of Schools, District 1 and the county? There was a reply that was correct.

Bob Worley visited with Dick Tamblyn from Newland and Company about the Auditor position and he feels that BSB needs an Auditor that has more qualifications. Bob Worley's idea was to pull the Auditor from the executive officers. They have also talked about taking the Sheriff out of there and doing that in a different manner, and putting qualifications on the Auditor that he/she be at least an Accountant and preferably a CPA.

Ristene Hall asked if the Auditor needs to have more qualifications, would he/she need to be paid more? Ristene Hall stated that she did not believe the public was voicing there was a problem with the Auditor as opposed to the Sheriff.

Bob Worley reviewed notes that he had on Missoula's Auditor. It is an elected position. The current auditor is a CPA and the last three have also been CPAs. The Auditor has a Chief Deputy that is appointed and has been there for 25 years. The Auditor also has two Audit Techs that are hired as staff. They review and approve all claims, do internal audits and evaluate internal controls of departments throughout the county to ensure efficiency and proper operation.

Ristene Hall thought if they are interested in doing that to have Danette Harrington speak on what her opinion is.

Northey Tretheway mentioned that what he has noticed in the other charters and what is not in Butte-Silver Bow's charter is the officers shall have the power and duties established by ordinance. After the establishment of any office, the commission may consolidate as provided by law two or more of the offices.

Northey Tretheway commented if you elect, you could not require qualifications on an elected position.

Meg Sharp replied in order for the position to have qualifications, it would have to be a hired position.

Bob Worley responded it would have to be position that came through an ordinance.

Dave Palmer replied the way it is set up in Butte-Silver Bow's Charter, the council does not have the right to put qualifications on an elected position. Dave Palmer stated you would have to have it under the Treasure's Department, have the Auditor be a hired position and then qualifications could be required for that position.

Ristene Hall asked if they could put qualifications in the charter? Dave Palmer replied yes. Bob Worley clarified that they could require that an Auditor, through appointment, have the required qualifications. Northey Tretheway asked even elected? Dave Palmer replied yes and explained if they amend the charter and state the qualifications for the Auditor, it would have to be spelled out in the charter that he/she must be an Accountant or CPA.

Cindi Shaw mentioned that she could not find a job description for an Assessor.

Tony Bonney stated if they did any changes, it is his understanding that it would be after the election? Dave Palmer asked if the Auditor is up for election in June, it would be four years before that would take affect? Meg Sharp asked if it could take affect in the November election? Dave Palmer replied no because the Auditor would already be in for that office. If they were just someone off the street with only high school education then to require he/she be a CPA would be too late.

Northey Tretheway commented that it states candidates shall have all education, training and experience required by state law for the respective office. If they raise that standard higher for the Auditor and it is an elected position, he did not know if they could do that.

Meg Sharp replied unless they made it a hired position rather than an elected position.

Bob Worley suggested they get clarification from Bob McCarthy. Bob Worley commented the only officers required to have a specific background are the County Attorney, County Superintendent of Schools and District Court Judges.

Bob Worley went through each position to see if it was going to remain an elected position. All agreed the following positions would remain elected positions: County Attorney, Clerk and Recorder, Clerk of District Court, County Superintendent of Schools,

Shag Miller replied that he is in favor of the County Superintendent being an elected position but would like to review rolling the Superintendent of Schools operations into School District #1. Tony Bonney agreed.

Bob Worley agreed and would like to see the Superintendent of Schools consolidated and did not see why they needed two. Bob Worley mentioned the Superintendent of Schools being rolled into the Clerk and Recorder's Office. Bob Worley had visited with Mary McMahon and she is adamant about not doing that. She feels she does not have the qualifications to do that position.

Shag Miller mentioned that there are 500 or so school districts in the State of Montana.

Tony Bonney suggested having the chairman of Ramsay's school district visit with them and see what their idea is on consolidating the duties of the Superintendent into the Clerk and Recorder's Office. Shag Miller replied that they would want to keep their own.

Bob Worley mentioned when Chuck Uggetti was there it had been brought up about trying to bring all of them under one district. Bob Worley stated he is in favor of doing that but felt that the outside districts do not want to lose their autonomy and be under the control of one board.

Wayne Harper commented that Ramsay school district alone has almost 200 kids. Wayne commented that Shag was right and there is one thing Montana has more of than California. Montana has double the number of school districts than California. There are more school boards in Montana than in the entire Western United States from Utah on over. Wayne commented that it is a huge issue in Montana. The governor runs the whole state and we have a Superintendent of Schools that makes almost six figures and with benefits makes that in excess. Helena has one, Deer Lodge has two that together make \$80,000, Dillion has one that makes \$64,000, Whitehall, Broadwater and those have one that makes \$48,000. Wayne stated \$522,000 is being spent on just those five districts. Wayne asked why can't one do all five and replied because they could not get it passed. Wayne stated it is too personal. Wayne commented that it would be the best thing for the county and the community.

Dave Palmer responded that if it was all under School District #1, the rural people are going to see it as their position on the school boards are going to be eliminated and teachers are going to be let go.

Shag Miller clarified that those three schools would not be closed down but that is what people are going to believe.

Bob Worley commented that what he thought Dave and Wayne were stating was if they were all consolidated under a County Superintendent of Schools, their budgets would go through the County Superintendent of Schools at that time and their boards would be wiped out.

Northey Tretheway asked how are they funded? Bob Worley replied they are funded by dollars from BSB and from the State of Montana but they all have their own boards in order to decide where the funds are going.

Wayne Harper replied that the boards are all still there. Where they start to worry is all of a sudden they have one representative on the school board out of eight. They are going to have votes seven to one against him so the school is going to close and where are you going to close it? They are going to ask what school are you going to close? You are going to close the school that has two kids in it.

Northey Tretheway asked how does Ramsay's funding formula work and is it different from how Butte's funding formula works? Northey further asked if Ramsay is immune from all the issues in Butte and would they not run into a situation where they might have a potential problem of having a school close? Wayne Harper replied that it is different. Wayne used Melrose as an example and stated that Melrose might be swimming in money and not able to spend it all. Their Home-Ec program for sixth graders might get a new stove every year instead of new spatula. It is because of how many people live in the county and who is paying a certain amount out of ranches versus houses. There are huge differences in the rural areas. Northey responded that it goes back to funding. Northey asked how is the funding determined if it is goes to Melrose, Ramsay or elsewhere? Northey asked if it is based on that particular area? Wayne replied partly. Based on that particular area and based on miles from a major center, which in Montana is considered a town of 12,000. Those miles add dollars to the funding right now. It is what they are trying to cure in Helena. There would be a huge difference from Melrose to Divide.

Northey Tretheway asked if it were consolidated under School District #1, the same formulas would still work and if those schools were closed, they would lose that potential funding because that distance and location would be gone? Wayne replied that they are going to change how they do it but under the status quo, quite possibly. He was not sure. Wayne stated that he does know if seven kindergarteners showed up instead of two, the school could double.

Northey Tretheway asked if there is a legitimate worry that one of those outlying schools would be closed, would the funding be more beneficial to move those students internal to Butte or would you lose more by doing that? Wayne replied that Kalispell has twice the number of students that Butte High has and obviously you would be able to do more and get more for your dollar because the more students, the more classrooms, the more teachers and so forth. Wayne Harper stated that Ramsay gets more money than West elementary and it is a smaller school. Northey replied if Ramsay were closed, Butte in total would lose? Wayne replied that Butte would win. The county would lose. Butte is funded on a big school system of \$1,242 per student and that is why when they take their roles...it is to the point if three kids move, it creates quite an impact.

Tony Bonney commented the reason they are taking a look at this is because of administrative duties. Tony Bonny stated that what he understands Wayne and Dave are talking about is perception. Tony stated they would have to push the administrative part

to get it by the voters. Tony asked if the biggest problem was people's perception that they are out to close their schools?

Wayne Harper replied that it is a perception they have one trustee versus seven. Ramsay's school of 22 students versus West Elementary or even the smallest one Butte just closed, which was Greelly. Greelly had 82 students and Ramsay has 28, and what do you think people are going to say. This person and that person will be out of jobs and children who are kindergartners have to get on a bus and ride all the way to Butte?

Tony Bonney commented the reason he mentioned the perception part was because anything they propose to the voters of this county as a change, there is going to be a perception that you are out to get someone or you are out to do something adverse to their powers or rights. Any change that they are dealing with, perception is going to be the biggest problem. If they decide to do that and have their facts pushed to the public that it is just an Administrative duty, they might be able to overcome some of that perception.

Northey Tretheway replied that it has to be viewed economically and it is a complicated topic.

Bob Worley asked if Ross or J.R. could do that for them? Wayne replied that he assumes J.R. knows half of it. Wayne thinks what Ed and those guys do is somewhat a little different. Wayne stated that he has seen where the County Superintendent's duties became part of a County Assessor or a County Clerks. He has never seen where the county's job became part of the school districts. Wayne did not know if legally you could do them all over there. There may be a reason that they do not combine over there and that is kind of autonomous, separate parties.

Northey Tretheway replied that he thought that was brought up when J.R. and Uggetti were there. Northey commented that they did not say they could do both but it is inefficient the way it is.

Bob Worley stated that J.R. and Uggetti were there on July 21 and the minutes were lengthy. Bob suggested that they could make a call to J.R. and Uggetti and ask them about consolidating everything under School District 1.

Wayne Harper thought they might want to ask Bob McCarthy if there has to be a separation of church and state...if it has to be a county position or if someone has to do the duties versus Uggetti doing them both. Wayne did not believe you could.

Northey Tretheway replied that he did not think you could because when it states what the duties by state law are for those positions, the County Superintendent of Schools really has supremacy in that situation.

Bob Worley replied that is why when they looked at it earlier, they looked at combining the County Superintendent of Schools with some other elected position in BSB rather than in School District 1.

Bob Worley stated that he put that question out there to Ken Weaver. He was the one who had brought the information back to them. Mary McMahon went ahead and did further research on it and her results were different than what Ken Weaver's were. There was a combined under the Clerk and Recorder but it was combined more under the Treasurer.

It was suggested that there be an informal show of hands for it being an elected position or combining the Superintendent of Schools with another office. There was four in favor and five opposed. The Superintendent will remain as it is.

Bob Worley asked who was in favor of consolidating the school districts of BSB County under the School District's Superintendent of Schools?

Northy commented that a way of stating it would be, who would be in favor of having one superintendent instead of two.

Ron Rowling made a comment that they need to keep in mind that Ed Heard also takes care of the home schooled. Ron stated that there are close to 200 in the county if not more. Ron stated that might be a reason for the separation with the state government. Meg Sharp asked if he visited the home schooled. Ron stated that he does have to visit them and send papers out.

Shag Miller motioned and Wayne seconded to leave the issue of the Superintendent for tonight so they could move on with discussing other items. All were in favor.

Wayne Harper would like to continue this subject at a later time and seek advice from Bob McCarthy to see if there was way to combine it.

Northy Tretheway suggested they have a list of questions put together to ask Bob McCarthy.

Bob Worley moved forward with the Sheriff. Meg Sharp commented because the Director of Fire Services, which is an appointed position seems to work with more ease, she would like to see the position of Sheriff become Director of Public Protection or something similar and it be a hired position instead of elected.

Tony Bonney agreed with Meg Sharp and commented that the Sheriff needs to be more of an administrator position.

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Dave disagrees and thinks it should be an elected position for the simple fact that if he/she is appointed or hired, it is a lifetime job and he does not agree with that. He thinks the people have more of a chance of changing the Sheriff if they do not like what he is doing in keeping it an elected position. Dave further commented when you compare it to the Director of Fire Services, he believes there is a lot more harmony there because the Director of Fire Services really does not deal with the public as much as the Sheriff. The Sheriff is in the limelight all the time. He has to make unpopular decisions as far as



enforcing the speeding laws or drinking and driving laws. The Director of Fire Services does not have to do that, he just needs to make sure that a house fire is put out and as long as that is done everyone is happy.

Tony Bonney disagreed and commented if they got the volunteers and the paid ones in one room and asked them how the harmony is going, he thinks there would be a big discussion. He does not believe there is harmony between the two. Tony commented that he feels Jeff has been able to smooth out some things because he stepped into the position more as an Administrator. Tony commented that he felt the position of Sheriff was more of an administrative duty because he cannot remember the last time John Walsh had to arrest somebody. Tony commented the one that is in the paper most often is the 911 system. Tony commented that he feels he deals more with administrative problems than public problems. Tony commented if he were not doing his job as an appointed administrator, he would be let go.

Ristene Hall commented that the one thing she has noticed with the sheriff is that the city never really gets a big choice. Ristene asked if they would get a better turn out if they had more of a job description or would there be a better turn out if people had to apply for the job and were appointed? Ristene asked what way would the citizen's benefit? Ristene stated her opinion of appointed versus elected is that it depends on the position. Ristene commented that she did not think because he/she was elected or appointed is going to guarantee that he/she does a good job. Ristene asked where would they get the largest selection?

Meg Sharp replied they certainly have not had a great choice from elected. Meg further stated if he/she were appointed and did a bad job that would be cause for firing or reprimanding him/her.

Cindi Shaw asked if you are going to appoint the Sheriff, who is going to select that person?

Dave Palmer replied that there is a Police Commission, which would review the application, recommend an appointment to the Chief Executive, the Chief Executive would appoint and it is confirmed by the Council of Commissioners.

Bob Worley commented that there is a chain of command. Bob stated that he visited with the Police Commission and they would not have a problem giving a presentation. Bob Worley stated that the Police Commission, has no problem with him/her being appointed versus elected. Bob Worley mentioned how difficult it is to fire an incumbent. Bob stated once a name becomes established it is tough to get rid of an incumbent. Bob stated he would have to make a major mistake to be let go. Northey Tretheway replied if the public is not happy with the performance of the incumbent, if there is a lot of prize for injustice out there, you would think there would be more people stepping up to the plate to run for that position if he/she is qualified.

Tony Bonney replied it is tough because most of the qualifications would be coming from officers with experience and he does not know too many officers that are going to run

against the Sheriff and take a chance at losing because he/she has to work with him for the next four years. Tony stated if one had to put in an application and compare education with more experience, more people would probably apply.

Dave Palmer commented that right now there are not set qualifications for the Sheriff.

Ristene Hall suggested putting qualifications on the elected position.

Dave Palmer commented if one is further qualified for the position, there would be less people running. Dave Palmer asked Ristene what kind of qualifications she would like to put on there. Dave Palmer commented that with an appointed Sheriff, they would be in the same position as with Jim Johnston and Mike Shea. Once a person is in there, they are in there for good and it is hard to get him/her out of there.

Northey Tretheway replied that he did not think it is hard to remove someone if they are not performing their job to standards. Northey commented to fire someone without first critiquing him/her against what was set out for his/her performance, you are going to lose. You are not necessarily stuck with someone for life. It has to be done according to process.

Wayne Harper stated good luck firing a government employee and not having a lawsuit filed. Wayne did not think they would get it through the electorate. Wayne stated when you say we are going to take an elected position and you, the public, are so stupid we can't trust you to elect a good sheriff, and by the way we are going to appoint one so BSB can end up with a lawsuit. Wayne added, and end up with the hassle of what Yellowstone is going through with their appointed police manager and City Manager. Wayne commented that he did not believe it would pass and stated the day you appoint them is the day they are there almost forever. Wayne asked them how many people have been fired in BSB in last ten years? Wayne replied around seven and five of them sued and won.

Northey Tretheway replied that there is a program called positive discipline and it can actually lead someone down the direction of where they either perform according to standards or they are let go. Northey commented if you are documenting all these stages, isn't that what positive discipline is for? Wayne Harper replied that positive discipline is supposed to enable the employee to reach performance standards to stay there. Northey Tretheway stated it is enabling the employee to understand what is expected of him/her and if they don't meet that it is in their lap. Wayne Harper agrees but stated "in their lap" means you fire maybe two people a year in a company that has 1300 employees. Wayne asked what are the Sheriff's duties? Wayne Harper asked who is going to define that? Meg Sharp replied it is to administer the department. Wayne Harper asked does that mean to give out 20 speeding tickets a day, what does it mean? Meg Sharp asked does that mean he gets to take extremely long weekends? Wayne Harper replied right now if people don't think he should take extremely long weekends, they should vote him out of office. If he is there and it is an administrative job, he is supposed to work 8am to 5pm and he is there from 8 to 5, it does nothing. How are you going to measure it? Wayne Harper commented that he did not think the people would vote for an appointed Sheriff because you are saying the public is too stupid to elect their own. Secondly, you would

be naive to believe if someone gets appointed and is not doing their job, he/she is going to be fired. Wayne asked how many people do they know work somewhere and wonder how is it that he/she still had their job? No one has got rid of him/her and there is a reason for that.

Tony Bonney replied that he does not think it is a question of whether people are stupid or not. If there were so many complaints to the commission and the commission addressed them they would make the recommendation to the Chief Executive who would in turn make the recommendation to the Council of Commissioners. Tony believes it would eliminate lawsuits because he would be answering to the Police Commission. They would be able to set up a pattern. If he did not show up to work this month or he went to the Bahamas for six weeks and has not been seen, they would have it all set up to make the recommendation to the Chief Executive. This enables him to make his recommendations, which they are asking him to do on a weekly basis. Tony stated this would take the politics out of it and still give people an opportunity to address the Police Commission.

Cindi Shaw asked when election comes up and there is nobody you want to vote for, what do you do? There would be more latitude if you appointed a Sheriff.

Wayne Harper commented it is the same when someone gets hired and you ask, why did they hire that person?

Ristene Hall had a concern about appointed because if you look at the past, everyone who has been appointed, it is always somebody's friend or relative. She felt if they go out to the community and look for qualified people, it would stay close knit. Ristene did not know if asking people to give up a vote would be the right thing since they feel so helpless now as to what is right or wrong in government and they have such little say.

Tony Bonney disagreed and gave an example of the Civic Center and the number who applied for that. Tony stated it is such a small community that someone is always going to know somebody and have a friend who knows a friend and so forth. Tony stated when you appoint you open the opportunity for people outside the community to at least apply for the position.

Dave Palmer used the Civic Center position as an example. Dave explained it is an appointed position and suppose the person that was hired for that position was to bring more entertainment to the Civic Center. Suppose the number of shows that came in dropped in half, is he going to be replaced? No, because he is an appointed person and will be there for as long as he wants to be there.

Tony Bonney replied that is the situation with John Walsh. Tony asked has he done a great job? If your car gets broke into, you have to fill out your own report. In his opinion, he has not done a good job and he is elected.

Shag Miller replied there is the weakness of the candidate that is running for re-election. If he has a bad record, the people are going to set it up and if they figure he is vulnerable from a certain issue then there will be somebody strong running against that person.

Tony Bonney wanted to state for the record that he has nothing against John Walsh. He commented they were elected to look at ways to run a more efficient government and he thinks there is a more efficient way to run the Sheriff's Department.

Bob Worley asked if they had enough comments on the question. Bob Worley asked if they should attempt to vote on whether they want to elect or appoint a Sheriff.

Tony Bonney made a motion to further discuss the issue of the Sheriff being appointed versus elected and seek the advice of Bob McCarthy. Meg Sharp seconded. Bob Worley announced the motion on the floor. Five opposed and four were in favor to further discuss the Sheriff remaining an elected position.

Northey Tretheway commented that he recalls Bob McCarthy repeatedly saying that there has never been a previous Study Commission having success in eliminating an elected officer.

Wayne Harper made a motion to have the Sheriff remain an elected position and Dave Palmer seconded.

Bob Worley announced the motion on the floor and asked for a show of hands on who was in favor.

Ristene Hall was in favor of keeping an elected Sheriff but would like to further discuss the issue because there are good reasons for electing and appointing.

Wayne Harper replied that he respects everyone's vote and it does not mean that there is a right or wrong when it comes to a person's vote.

Chairman Bob Worley reminded that there is a motion on the floor and if nobody has further questions, he would like to put the motion to a vote. Bob Worley asked for a show of hands of all who were in favor, six were in favor and two opposed to elect Sheriff.

Bob Worley moved forward with issue regarding the County Assessor.

Bob Worley commented that he likes the idea and feels we are protected a little with an elected County Assessor. Other counties feel like they get run over when it is done by the state even though we are only 1 of 3 in the State of Montana. Shag Miller's son, who is County Attorney for Powell County (one of the three counties that has an Assessor) commented that a local government retaining an Assessor is very important and is a valuable asset when you are dealing with the Department of Revenue, which can run right over the top of you if you are not careful. He stated the counties that got rid of their Assessors regret it. Chairman Bob Worley asked if they were all in favor of keeping the Assessor an elected position. All were in favor.

All were in favor of keeping the Coroner and Public Administrator as elected positions.

They all agreed they needed more information on the Auditor.

Bob Worley mentioned Newland and Company does a spot check, it is not a complete audit. One thing an Auditor could do for BSB is an Auditor who is capable of doing auditing within the whole county. One that can improve the functions of government and do more complete audits that could reduce the amount of money paid to Newland and Company. Bob Worley is in favor of more information on that position.

Dave Palmer was in favor of more information and would like to see something working closer with the Finance and Budget Committee, who reviews all of the expenditures on a weekly basis. Dave thinks the Auditor and the Finance and Budget Committee should be involved together. Dave feels that the Auditor could save money but there has to be a budget in that department to do the job probably, meaning that could have at least a deputy in there or something so they can do it thoroughly.

Bob Worley commented if they do something different with the Auditor it is probably going to enlarge that department. Bob Worley further commented that they will want to put education and qualifications on that position.

Bob Worley moved forward with the Treasurer and all were in favor of keeping that an elected position.

Cindi Shaw asked if they were going to ask Bob McCarthy on the Superintendent of Schools and the Auditor.

Dave would like to add “k” to that section involving the Community Enrichment Coordinator. Dave commented that there should be an office that handles the cleanup of this community and it is the number one complaint from insiders and outsiders. He believes it should be an elected position. Tony Bonney agreed and commented it would take a lot of responsibility off the Health Department.

Wayne Harper’s concern was if they elect someone, once he/she is elected and they say I need this from the Health Department and this from John Sesso, is the Health Department and John Sesso going to respond to him/her? How do you get the power?

Tony Bonney suggested while they are looking at Rob Macioroski’s issue they also look at the Community Enrichment Coordinator position and give him/her the teeth to do the job.

Bob Worley mentioned Helena, Great Falls and Missoula having Neighborhood Commissions underneath the Council of Commissioners. Bob thought maybe that is where these kinds of things have to be done by a Community Enrichment Coordinator and with the Neighborhood Councils to make sure these kinds of things get done.

Northey Tretheway mentioned how BSB has 12 commissioners and maybe that is why there is not a Neighborhood Commission.

Meg Sharp asked if there was anyway that the Community Enrichment Coordinator position could have volunteered staff to assist him/her?

Bob Worley replied in the other communities they are volunteers. Bob stated in some communities it seems to work well and in others it does not.

Dave Palmer asked if the communities that have the Neighborhood Commissions are they full-time commissioners that meet during the day?

Bob Worley believed they met at night. Bob mentioned that the Neighborhood Commissions could apply for grants and that might be additional money to get more cleanup done in the neighborhoods.

Chairman Bob Worley mentioned making the Land Records Manager an appointed position.

Shag Miller read an article in regard to the Land Records Department in Cascade. The article stated that Cascade County Commissioners took the first step Tuesday to phase out the elected job of Surveyor. The Surveyor's duties would be divided up into appropriate departments. Road permits will be handled by the Road Department. In the Clerk and Recorder's Office, a Registered Professional Engineer will take care of the records. The Land and Records Office will be done in the Clerk and Recorder's Office. Any required survey will be done by contract Surveyors. They figured they would save \$47,000 annually.

Northey Tretheway commented that was a good example of their charter and it not being so specific about each of the details of the departments so they could do that by ordinance.

**Adjournment:** Cindi Shaw motioned to adjourn and Wayne Harper seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** December 15, 2005